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January 18, 2000 **Foundation for the Accreditation
of Hematopoietic Cell Therapy**

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Food and Drug Administration Docket
Docket Management Branch
HFA-305
Food and Drug Administration
Room-123
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Docket #97N0497: Request for Proposed Standards for Unrelated Allogeneic
Peripheral and Placental Cord Blood Hematopoietic Progenitor-Stem Cell
Products Request for Comments

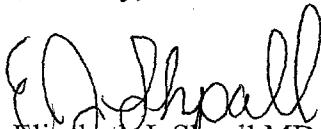
To Docket Management Branch:

The Foundation for the Accreditation of Hematopoietic Cell Therapy (FAHCT) in
collaboration with NETCORD, are respectfully requesting an extension of the
deadline for submission to the Docket number listed above until **March 15, 2000**.
I spoke to Liana Harvath on January 5, 2000 who thought our request would be
acceptable and advised us to formally request the extension by writing this letter
to the Docket.

Over the past 18 months, FAHCT and NETCORD have drafted comprehensive
standards which cover all aspects of cord blood banking. It has been a huge effort
involving cord blood experts from all over the world. These standards are almost
finished, but require some additional editing and final review before they can be
released. If acceptable, FAHCT will also submit their standards for peripheral
blood stem cell collection, processing and transplantaion by March 15, 2000.

We apologize for the delay, and are hopeful that our request for an extension will
be granted.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth J. Shpall MD
President, FAHCT

CC FAHCT Board Members
NETCCORD Board Members

97N-0497

EXT 1

Liana Harvath
FAHCT Accreditation Office, Dept. of Pathology/Microbiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center
600 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68198-3135, U.S.A.
Tel: (402) 559-7257 Fax: (402) 559-6018

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